

science of Louis, and demanded a great atonement.

In 1143, he had been at war with Theobald, Count of Champagne; during the capture of Vitry by his troops, the church had been burnt to the ground, and a thousand men and women had perished in the flames. All things, therefore, urged the Crusade upon Louis, and it was fortunate that, in leaving France for the Holy Land, he had in the Abbot Suger a man competent to govern well in his absence.

Through the midst of a whole nation devoting themselves to the Holy War, Bernard

into the Rhindand, and met King Conrad at Frankfort (end of November, 1146).

Here was a harder task for the preacher of the Crusade, Conrad was a man of knightly spirit and valour, but undecided in mind and weak in resolution; above all he was to prove

himself in Germany and in Italy; the precious time which Bernard urged him to devote to the Holy Land might be far better spent in

bringing Roger and his upstart kingdom to submission*, or settling the feud of Welf and Staufer in the fatherland, Bernard, as wise and tenacious as he enthusiastic, waited his time.

At Speyer, on
557th of December, 1146, Bernard was
cele-
mass before the King and his
nobles?

ly he broke into an

appeal;

of all the gifts with which the
Lord had
his hearer; the power and the
kingdom⁵
and spiritual abundance;